

The Deskillling and Reskilling of Artistic Production

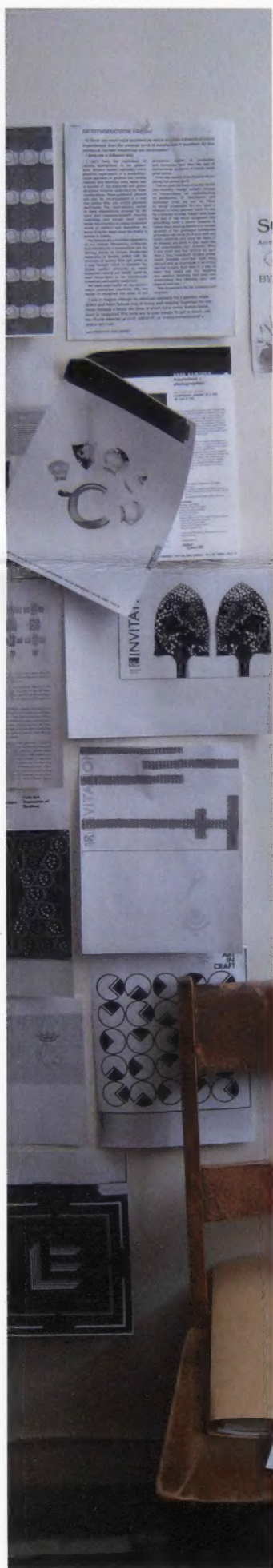
SKILLSHARE

November 16, 2013 2:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

with reception to follow

ARTEXTE

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SKILLSHARE: A day of craft research and discussion at Artexte
With Nicole Burisch and Anthea Black

2:30-3:30 pm: Tour of the Artexte collection and presentation of selected materials and items

A guided tour of the Artexte collection and facilities, followed by a presentation on Nicole Burisch's research at Artexte.

As 2012-2013 researcher in residence, Nicole Burisch has been investigating the presence and position of craft within Artexte's collection. Recent developments in craft theory have been marked by a shift away from traditional definitions of craft as necessarily linked to specific materials (such as ceramics, textiles, or glass). Burisch's research at Artexte builds upon this stance to look at how craft's qualities appear throughout the collection – resulting in an intuitive and highly personal search for representations of materiality, handwork, labour, skill, process, texture, tactility, pattern, function, rural and "folk" cultures. Using this broader view on where craft might be located, Burisch has gathered a selection of items and excerpts from the collection that together raise and respond to the following questions: How are aspects of craft positioned or deployed within other fields? Which of craft's qualities or knowledges are useful in communicating certain values or ideas? How has this shifted in relation to other art historical moments or movements?

The results of this research have been gathered together in a new publication: a limited edition book-work that is half database and half zine. Produced through the repetitive acts of photocopying and (re) arranging, the publication traces the presence of craft in Artexte's collection, while leaving room for gaps, contradictions, and future additions.

Selected craft-based materials and items from the collection will also be on hand for consultation and discussion.

4:00-5:00 Lecture by Anthea Black and Nicole Burisch:
From Craftivism to Craftwashing: consuming and co-opting the politics of craft

In the almost-decade since the word "craftivism" has been used to describe the blending of craft and activism, a number of forces have complicated this relatively emergent dialogue and set of practices. We investigate how the particular qualities of craft have been conflated with notions of authenticity, individuality, and radical politics, and what this might mean in regards to changing notions of activism. If "greenwashing" refers to the use of branding to make a product seem eco-friendly while concealing its negative impacts, we introduce the term "craftwashing" to refer to instances where craft is used to market and perform political and social engagement while obscuring similarly sticky ethical, environmental, and economic impacts of global production and consumption.

-5:00-7:00 pm: Book launch

Image: Nicole Burisch, Detail

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